

Teacher's Conservation Corner

John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District

New Conservation Capsule Program

This year, the John Marshall SWCD is introducing a new program currently geared for 3rd and 4th graders. These Conservation Capsules are tubs which come with a lesson plan and resources for teachers to conduct a lesson on a certain topic. They may be borrowed for one week and can either be delivered to your school or you can make arrangements to pick it up.

You may check out any of the capsules regardless of grade level designations. When requesting a capsule, we will try our best to meet your needs; however, please keep in mind that capsules are on a first come first serve basis. Our Conservation Capsules are like a library system and we ask that you please return all capsules in the

condition in which they were received.

The District currently has two Conservation Capsules available for check out:

Food Webs: 3rd & 4th Grades (SOL: Science 3.5, 4.5)

Students explore the terms food chains and webs through interactive games explaining the relationships between animals and plants in food chains.

Regions of Virginia: 4th Grade (SOL: VS.2)

Students will learn the different regions of Virginia displayed on a large canvas map. The students will label the map and determine

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The Map from the "Regions of Virginia" Conservation Capsule.

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Soil Tubes

The John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District is once again offering soil lessons to students of all ages. The main program (Soil Tubes) is tailored for third grade students (SOL: 3.1, 3.7). The District can also conduct soil programs for middle and high school classes which go more in depth about soil processes. about 30 minutes per class. Each student gets to make a soil tube featuring topsoil, subsoil, and bed-rock. The District supplies all the necessary materials for the lesson. Programs for older students can involve a field component (soil sampling, pH measurement, etc.) and can be adapted to the length of the class period.

In the past school year, the District conducted the soil tube program at seven schools in the county, reaching 500 students. If you would like to schedule a lesson, please contact Michael Trop at the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District at: 540-347-3120 x3 or michael.trop@fauquiercounty.gov.

The Soil Tubes lesson for third grade students takes

AR Sandbox

The Augmented Reality Sandbox is an interactive sandbox which can be brought to classrooms. It is designed so that elevation contours and colors are projected onto the sand in real time when the sand is moved around the box. In addition a virtual rainfall can be created and it will flow like normal water, based on the topography of the landscape in the box. The District can bring this tool to your classrooms to conduct lessons on watersheds, water resources, contour lines, landforms, and topography. If you would like to keep the sandbox in your classroom for a few days for additional lessons, that option may be available too.

A demonstration of a sandbox that was built at UCLA can be seen [online](#). If you would like to set up a lesson or would like a demonstration, please contact Michael Trop at: 540-347-3120 x3 or michael.trop@fauquiercounty.gov.

Conservation Capsules (cont.)

the agricultural products and major industries of each region.

To reserve a capsule, please send an email to: michael.trop@fauquiercounty.gov with the following information: Name of Capsule, Dates *(please provide 3 dates in different weeks. We will try our best to select your first date)*, School name, Teacher name, teacher email address, Grade(s), and an estimate of number of teachers, classes and students that will be using the capsule.

The Teacher’s Conservation Corner is a publication of the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District. If you have an idea for information you would like to see in this newsletter, please send an email to michael.trop@fauquiercounty.gov. All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status.